

GERMANS WENT TO THIRD LINE OF THE FRENCH

Pierced Positions on Southern Slope of Dead Man's Hill and Also on Hill 304, Capturing Seven Machine Guns and Bringing Back 220 Prisoners

ATTACK PRECEDED BY HARD BOMBARDMENT

French Official Statement Admits Reverse but Declares That Only a Few Germans Got into Their Lines — French Counter-Attacks Are Said to Have Failed

Berlin, by wireless, Dec. 29.—On the Verdun front yesterday German troops, transferred from the Somme, entered French positions on hill 304 and on the southern slope of Dead Man's hill, the war office announces. The Germans advanced to the second and third French positions, capturing seven machine guns. Several French counter attacks were repulsed, the statement says.

The Germans brought back 220 prisoners.

Paris, Dec. 29.—German troops last night delivered an attack in strong force on a three-kilometre front between Hill 304 and Dead Man's Hill, one part being penetrated and this only by a few hostile troops.

The attack was delivered after a long and violent artillery preparation. North of Verdun on the right bank of the Meuse a strong German reconnaissance was dispersed east of Hardaumont.

BRITISH REPLACE FRENCH.

Take Over Another Section of the Western War Front.

London, Dec. 29.—The continuation of the British offensive along the Somme front is impossible so long as the present weather lasts. Major-General Frederick H. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the war office, informed the Associated Press yesterday.

"I told you some time ago," he said, "that our offensive would not cease during the winter, but it must be apparent from the daily reports that no real battle has been offered in that sector since October. In the first place, we underestimated the effect of the shelling on the terrain. The country over the line advances will have to be made in thickly sown fields with shell holes filled with water. Also, never having held the same line in any other winter, we underestimated the effect of the fog in the valley of the Somme."

"There have been frequent frosts, not severe enough to harden the ground, but sufficient to form fog, making artillery observation fire practically useless and also preventing the drying of the ground."

"The French arrived at the same decision and transferred their attention to Verdun, with results which you know. We may be able to resume in March, as we found the ground at Neuve Chapelle in fairly good shape in March, 1915, although it had been very bad during the winter."

"Unable to continue the offensive for the present, we have done the next best thing. The taking over of a section of the French line has kept us busy during the past 30 days. The operation has been successful, and I will be glad to tell you the exact extent of the line taken over when I am sure the Germans know the point of junction."

"In Rumania the first Rumanian army, which has borne the brunt of the fighting, has been entirely withdrawn, and is now re-forming in Moldavia, while its place has been taken by the Russians. In Dobruja, the line has been moved back in alignment with the battle front north of the Danube. In this region, both our allies and the enemy are suffering from adverse weather conditions."

ON GALLIOLI PENINSULA.

British Naval Airplanes Conducted Bombardment.

London, Dec. 29.—A British official communication issued last evening says: "On Tuesday a squadron of naval airplanes bombed enemy camps at Galiata, on the Gallipoli peninsula, with successful results."

"Wednesday a squadron of seaplanes attacked and destroyed the Chialdar bridge, 18 miles east of Adana (Asia Minor)."

TEUTONS WIN IN RUMANIA.

Captured Several Positions, Taking 1400 Prisoners.

Berlin, by wireless, Dec. 29.—In Rumania yesterday Teutonic troops captured several positions, taking 1400 prisoners, 18 machine guns and three cannons.

NATIVE OF DETROIT.

Thomas C. Casgrain, postmaster general, Dead.

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—Thomas Chase Casgrain, postmaster general of Canada, died today of pneumonia. He was born in Detroit in 1852.

JOIN IN HOPE FOR WAR'S END

Denmark, Sweden and Norway Support President Wilson's Plea

AND DESPATCH NOTE TO BELLIGERENTS

Declare They Take Action in the Interests of Humanity

London, Dec. 29.—The Scandinavian governments have sent a joint note to the belligerents supporting the peace note of President Wilson.

A Reuter dispatch from Copenhagen says the Danish, Swedish and Norwegian governments have instructed their legations to address the governments of the belligerent countries' notes in which the Scandinavian countries, adhering to the note of President Wilson concerning measures to be adopted for facilitating a durable peace, declare they would consider themselves as failing in their duty toward their respective peoples and toward humanity as a whole if they did not express their most profound sympathy with every effort which may contribute toward putting an end to the sufferings and losses, moral and material, which are ever growing in consequence of the war.

The three governments, in conclusion, cherish the hope that the initiative taken by President Wilson, will lead to result worthy of the generous spirit which prompted his action.

WRAPPED IN SILENCE.

Officials of Washington Government Decide to Keep Mute on Peace.

Washington, Dec. 29.—A policy of absolute silence regarding the peace negotiations has been adopted by President Wilson and Secretary Lansing. It was stated officially yesterday that all steps henceforth will be regarded as confidential, that no comment will be made on any development and that rumors will not be discussed.

The decision to pursue this course was made known after the state department had received the official texts of the German and Austrian replies to President Wilson's identical notes to the belligerents, proposing a discussion of peace terms and after it was learned that the Teutonic powers would be willing to permit a confidential exchange of tentative terms, if it became necessary to do so to bridge the gap threatening to prevent a gathering of peace delegates.

In many quarters the official attitude was construed as indicating that secret exchanges were expected to follow, if they did not precede, the formal answers of the entente nations to the notes of the German and Austrian powers. Because of the highly confidential nature of such negotiations, it is pointed out, the intermediary would be obliged to refrain from admitting even that they were in progress.

So far as the entente governments are concerned, it is understood that little if any confidential information has reached here to shed more light on their attitude than has been given publicly in the speeches of their plenipotentiaries and the comment of their press. Consequently there is no disposition here to do more than to wait for the results of the negotiations, which will be refused to enter any sort of peace conference until Germany has indicated clearly on what conditions she will stop fighting.

On the Teutonic side, while the reply to President Wilson is regarded by the German embassy as complying with President Wilson's suggestion in offering a method of procedure, Germany is said to be willing to consider other suggestions regarding methods from any quarter, including her enemies.

The views of the German government further are represented as being as follows:

If the entente considers that guarantees for the future are the principal elements to be achieved, and lacking confidence in the German government, insists upon knowing something of the guarantees regarding the principles to which she is willing to subscribe, leaving details for settlement at the proposed conference. The German government considers that there is little to be gained by going into any lengthy discussion of guarantees for the future, with the present war in progress. In this connection, Germany, it is asserted, has never intended that the conference suggested should result immediately in the establishment of peace. It is considered that it necessarily would be of a preliminary nature to determine whether it might be possible to end the war.

According to the German diplomats, the plan Germany is proceeding upon would provide that the delegates should first agree upon territorial and immediately connected terms, and that a preliminary tentative treaty then should be settled upon. This completed, the German idea is to have all the neutrals called in to participate in consideration of the questions of guarantees for the future. They regard it as a matter for the conference to settle whether the neutrals should become signatory to the entire peace treaty or only to that part having to do with guarantees for the maintenance of peace in the future, such as freedom of the seas, limitation of armaments, formation of a world league to enforce peace, and establishment of an international court of arbitration.

TEXT OF GERMAN NOTE.

Differs Somewhat from the Unofficial Statement.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The official text of Germany's note which differs somewhat from the unofficial follows:

"The imperial government has accepted and considered in the friendly spirit which is apparent in the communication of the president, (the) noble initiative of the president looking to the creation of bases for the foundation of a lasting peace."

"The president discloses the aim which lies next to his heart and leaves the choice of the way open."

"A direct exchange of views appears to the imperial government as the most suitable way of arriving at the desired result. The imperial government has the honor, therefore, in the sense of its declaration of the 13th instant, which offered the hand of peace negotiations, to propose speedily assembly on neutral ground, of delegates of the warring states."

"It is also the view of the imperial government that the great work for the prevention of future wars can first be taken up only after the ending of the present conflict of exhaustion. The imperial government is ready, when this point has been reached to co-operate with the United States in this sublime task."

VILLISTAS DEFEATED IN NORTH MEXICO

Official Report Coming Out of Mexico City Tells of Carranza Successes During the Past Few Days.

Mexico City, Dec. 29.—It is officially reported that the Villistas have suffered several severe defeats in the north during the past few days.

SEEKS MORE DELAY.

Carranza Has Not Flatly Repudiated Protocol.

Washington, Dec. 29.—One more appeal for modification of the protocol providing for the withdrawal of American troops from Mexico is made by General Carranza in a message delivered to Secretary Lane yesterday by Luis Cabrera, chairman of the Mexican members of the joint commission.

The Mexican first chief replied to the persistent American demand that the protocol signed by his spokesmen at Atlantic City be ratified with an 800 word document in which he failed to accede to the demand, but refrained from writing anything that could be construed as a flat repudiation.

The latest suggestion now will be considered by the three American representatives—Secretary Lane, J. R. Mott and Judge George Grey.

Early next week a joint session of the Mexican-American commission will be held at which the Americans will give the Mexicans their answer and on its nature depends the future course of the commissioners, who were directed more than four months ago to effect if possible the adjustment of questions at issue between the two countries.

ENTENTE REPLY IS COMPLETED

After Several Conferences, Says Report from London

MUST BE SUBMITTED TO ALL THE ALLIES

It May Be Delivered to Germany by Wednesday of Next Week

VILLISTAS DEFEATED IN NORTH MEXICO

Official Report Coming Out of Mexico City Tells of Carranza Successes During the Past Few Days.

Mexico City, Dec. 29.—It is officially reported that the Villistas have suffered several severe defeats in the north during the past few days.

SEEKS MORE DELAY.

Carranza Has Not Flatly Repudiated Protocol.

Washington, Dec. 29.—One more appeal for modification of the protocol providing for the withdrawal of American troops from Mexico is made by General Carranza in a message delivered to Secretary Lane yesterday by Luis Cabrera, chairman of the Mexican members of the joint commission.

The Mexican first chief replied to the persistent American demand that the protocol signed by his spokesmen at Atlantic City be ratified with an 800 word document in which he failed to accede to the demand, but refrained from writing anything that could be construed as a flat repudiation.

The latest suggestion now will be considered by the three American representatives—Secretary Lane, J. R. Mott and Judge George Grey.

Early next week a joint session of the Mexican-American commission will be held at which the Americans will give the Mexicans their answer and on its nature depends the future course of the commissioners, who were directed more than four months ago to effect if possible the adjustment of questions at issue between the two countries.

It was learned that the Mexican commissioners were confident that no insuperable barrier had been raised by Carranza. It was asserted that the utmost care had been exercised to keep out of the reply any expressions of sentiment that might make the situation more complex or that would in any way offend the representatives of the American government.

The chief insistence of Carranza has been that the American troops should be withdrawn unconditionally, which the American commissioners would not consider. It was indicated that Carranza's insistence on that point was less pronounced now and that the change had been wrought largely by the altered military situation in northern Mexico.

There appeared reason to believe that one of the conditions to which Carranza now objects is that under which he would be obliged to garrison the territory vacated by the Americans as they marched out. It was pointed out that since the protocol was drafted the increased activities of Villa and the steady growth of his army of bandits has made it difficult for Carranza to agree to use any considerable part of his army in the district now occupied by Pershing when it might be necessary to use the same force in meeting more active moves of Villa at other points.

Carranza holds that his government is doing all it humanly can to restore order in the north and that it will continue to do so, but that the presence of the American troops on Mexican soil is making the task more difficult by giving Villa and his lieutenants a pretext for urging the disaffected to join him in his fight against Carranza.

An interesting development in the Mexican situation generally was presented yesterday in reports to the state and war departments of the changing conditions in Mexico. When the commissioners adjourned in Atlantic City there were few administration officials who believed Carranza's power was seriously menaced. Since then official reports have shown a strength in the different reactionary groups that now is recognized as dangerous.

The report persisted yesterday that Ambassador Designate Arredondo had been recalled by his government and that he was to be succeeded by Consul De Negri of San Francisco, who would be in charge without diplomatic rank. Mr. Arredondo denied the story categorically and the state department was without information.

RUSSIAN SHIP ARRIVES.

The Volodga is the First of That Nationality to Arrive in Months.

New York, Dec. 29.—For the first time in nearly three months a ship flying the Russian flag docked yesterday at a New York pier. She was the steamship Volodga out of Archangel, Dec. 3, and is here in ballast to take cargo for a port as yet unnamed.

Those whose interests are associated with Russian ships, think the vessels that formerly plied between this port and Archangel are being used to transport supplies from England to Russia, via the ice-free port of Kolobay, under the protection of war craft.

TWO SHIPS SUNK.

British Copeswood and Norwegian Steamship Ida.

London, Dec. 29.—The British steamship Copeswood has been sunk and the Norwegian steamship Ida is reported sunk.

ENTENTE REPLY IS COMPLETED

After Several Conferences, Says Report from London

MUST BE SUBMITTED TO ALL THE ALLIES

It May Be Delivered to Germany by Wednesday of Next Week

VILLISTAS DEFEATED IN NORTH MEXICO

Official Report Coming Out of Mexico City Tells of Carranza Successes During the Past Few Days.

Mexico City, Dec. 29.—It is officially reported that the Villistas have suffered several severe defeats in the north during the past few days.

SEEKS MORE DELAY.

Carranza Has Not Flatly Repudiated Protocol.

Washington, Dec. 29.—One more appeal for modification of the protocol providing for the withdrawal of American troops from Mexico is made by General Carranza in a message delivered to Secretary Lane yesterday by Luis Cabrera, chairman of the Mexican members of the joint commission.

The Mexican first chief replied to the persistent American demand that the protocol signed by his spokesmen at Atlantic City be ratified with an 800 word document in which he failed to accede to the demand, but refrained from writing anything that could be construed as a flat repudiation.

The latest suggestion now will be considered by the three American representatives—Secretary Lane, J. R. Mott and Judge George Grey.

Early next week a joint session of the Mexican-American commission will be held at which the Americans will give the Mexicans their answer and on its nature depends the future course of the commissioners, who were directed more than four months ago to effect if possible the adjustment of questions at issue between the two countries.

It was learned that the Mexican commissioners were confident that no insuperable barrier had been raised by Carranza. It was asserted that the utmost care had been exercised to keep out of the reply any expressions of sentiment that might make the situation more complex or that would in any way offend the representatives of the American government.

The chief insistence of Carranza has been that the American troops should be withdrawn unconditionally, which the American commissioners would not consider. It was indicated that Carranza's insistence on that point was less pronounced now and that the change had been wrought largely by the altered military situation in northern Mexico.

There appeared reason to believe that one of the conditions to which Carranza now objects is that under which he would be obliged to garrison the territory vacated by the Americans as they marched out. It was pointed out that since the protocol was drafted the increased activities of Villa and the steady growth of his army of bandits has made it difficult for Carranza to agree to use any considerable part of his army in the district now occupied by Pershing when it might be necessary to use the same force in meeting more active moves of Villa at other points.

Carranza holds that his government is doing all it humanly can to restore order in the north and that it will continue to do so, but that the presence of the American troops on Mexican soil is making the task more difficult by giving Villa and his lieutenants a pretext for urging the disaffected to join him in his fight against Carranza.

An interesting development in the Mexican situation generally was presented yesterday in reports to the state and war departments of the changing conditions in Mexico. When the commissioners adjourned in Atlantic City there were few administration officials who believed Carranza's power was seriously menaced. Since then official reports have shown a strength in the different reactionary groups that now is recognized as dangerous.

The report persisted yesterday that Ambassador Designate Arredondo had been recalled by his government and that he was to be succeeded by Consul De Negri of San Francisco, who would be in charge without diplomatic rank. Mr. Arredondo denied the story categorically and the state department was without information.

RUSSIAN SHIP ARRIVES.

The Volodga is the First of That Nationality to Arrive in Months.

New York, Dec. 29.—For the first time in nearly three months a ship flying the Russian flag docked yesterday at a New York pier. She was the steamship Volodga out of Archangel, Dec. 3, and is here in ballast to take cargo for a port as yet unnamed.

Those whose interests are associated with Russian ships, think the vessels that formerly plied between this port and Archangel are being used to transport supplies from England to Russia, via the ice-free port of Kolobay, under the protection of war craft.

TWO SHIPS SUNK.

British Copeswood and Norwegian Steamship Ida.

London, Dec. 29.—The British steamship Copeswood has been sunk and the Norwegian steamship Ida is reported sunk.

POULTRY THEORIES TOLD.

George P. Coffin, Judge of Recent Show, Gave Talk in Barre.

Last evening members of the Vermont Poultry association and other poultrymen who are interested in the breeding of birds, gathered to the number of about 30 in the court room at the city building to listen to the lecture given by George P. Coffin of Freeport, Me., judge of the 11th annual exhibit of the association. The remarks made by the speaker were very interesting and helpful to those of the audience who were doubtful as to the methods by which they could improve their birds and the manner in which they should properly care for the flock.

Mr. Coffin opened his lecture by telling of the four types of hens which one will find in the world on a tour of inspection. The first and most common of the quartet is the mongrel, which is found in nearly every barnyard through the country, they being obtained by the constant mixing of breeds and lack of care in raising the chickens. The second class is that of the mixed strains, where the poultryman crosses his breeds once, thus getting a bird which often lays well, but is inferior to the pure bloods. The third type is the pure bloods; they are birds that are bred in the same strains but lack purer strains. The fourth species is that of the standard breed, which is the nearest perfect of any of the fowl kind, they being bred by the experienced poultrymen, until nearly all the defects are gone and they can be placed in a class by themselves.

In speaking of the egg producing of the different breeds, he stated that it would be a difficult task for any man to give anything definite as to what breed of hens were the best layers, as hens which have been tested at the same station with the same method of trap nesting two years in succession will differ greatly in their egg laying qualities; one year a certain breed may lay better, and the next year the other strain will have the better record.

In the pure standard breed bird there are about 100 varieties in the United States today which are recognized by the American Poultry association, each and every one of these breeds starting from one class of fowl ages ago. Today the wild bird from which they originated is extinct. The different strains have come from several countries, as the Leghorn from Italy, the game from Spain, the Hamburg from Germany, the Orpington from England and the Rhode Island Reds, Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes from the United States.

Remarks about the work of the judges brought to the minds of the listeners the extremely hard situation that a judge is placed in when giving out the prizes at an exhibit, as the standard breed are supposed to be, are rated by their color of feathers, eyes, color of the legs and the tails of the birds. A feature of a perfect bird that many would not know is the absence of the least amount of fuzz on the legs or toes of the fowl, as even one plume of the fuzz on a toe would disqualify a bird from the show, thus giving a prize to a bird that might be inferior in every other way.

In order to keep up a strain and make prize producers, one must plan to have the flock in a good condition, as white feathers are apt to come out if the hens are a little weak or sick in any way. Defects also are apt to be inherited by one strain from the other birds, many cases of this kind being known among the best poultrymen.

In his closing words, Mr. Coffin stated that in order to put a bird in condition for an exhibit to continue the old methods of soap and water and let the fowl do the work. Yellow corn for all fowls with color is the best thing to live on and the feathers and brighten the comb and legs, while boiled rice and milk is better for the white feathered bird, as the yellow corn was said by experts to have a tendency to color the feathers a dingy shade of the faintest yellow.

CAN DRAFT CITIZENS.

Regulation for Government of Guard Under National Defense Act.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 29.—Every able-bodied male citizen of the United States between the ages of 18 and 45 years is held liable for service in the national guard in war time, without further act of Congress, by war department regulations for the government of the guard issued under the national defense act. In a circular prepared nearly two months ago but made public only yesterday, the militia bureau directs that where a national guard regiment is called out for war service, a reserve training battalion to fill vacancies at the front shall be organized out of the national guard reserve and by voluntary enlistment.

"If for any reason," the order continues, "there shall not be enough reservists or enough voluntary enlistments to organize or to keep the reserve battalions at prescribed strength, a sufficient number of the unorganized militia shall be drafted by the president to maintain such battalion or other lesser reserve unit at the prescribed strength."

The language follows closely that of the national defense act, in which the unorganized militia is defined as including every able-bodied male citizen within the prescribed age limit or those who have declared their intention of becoming citizens.

The national guard regulations, which will be amplified in great detail later, also strike at the problem of dependent families of soldiers, which has cost the government several millions of dollars already through the border mobilization. Recruiting officers for the national guard are directed to discourage the enlistment of married men or those with others dependent upon them. Such persons are to be accepted only for reasons in the public interest, men who wish to become officers being the only class specifically excepted.

The regulations provide that no officer of the guard hereafter shall be recognized as such under the defense act, unless he shall have subscribed to an oath binding him to obey the orders of the president and of the governor of his state. Appointments will be made on recommendations to the secretary of war from governors or the commanding officers of state or territorial units of the guard, and after proper physical and mental examination by boards of officers. Promotions will be handled in the same way, and any officer who fails in the examination as to his professional ability cannot come up for re-examination within a year.

After three years' active service, or when the organizations are disbanded, national guard officers may pass into the national guard reserve.

FURNISHING CHARGED.

Fred Duval of Montpelier Arrested by Chief Sinclair.

On a disclosure warrant issued by Magistrate H. W. Scott, Fred Duval of Montpelier was arrested by Chief Sinclair in Barre this afternoon and locked up at police headquarters on a charge of furnishing liquor illegally. Duval's detention is the outcome of a story told in city court this morning when a fellow townsman of Duval's, Joseph Chiquette, told of procuring from him the liquor whereby he became intoxicated.

Chiquette is described on the police court records of Barre and Montpelier as a habitual drunkard, and as soon as his narrative was completed, the judge made a warrant for Duval's arrest. Exhaustive inquiries in Barre and Montpelier and surrounding towns failed to locate the man, but this afternoon when Chief Sinclair was looking for another person, he encountered Duval and placed him under arrest immediately.

BOND ISSUE PLAN DRAWN

Wilson and Congressional Leaders Agree Tentatively

\$180,000,000 NEEDED TO MEET DEFICIT

Which Will Confront Government on June 30, 1918

Washington, D. C., Dec. 29.—President Wilson has tentatively agreed with administration leaders in Congress on a bond issue to meet part of the treasury deficit which confronts the government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1918. It is estimated that about \$180,000,000 will be needed. President Wilson is working on other plans for raising additional revenue.

PROMOTED TO BOSTON JOB.

W. R. Eastman to Leave St. Albans—Resigns as Alderman.

St. Albans, Dec. 29.—W. R. Eastman, who for many years was chief clerk to the general passenger agent, J. W. Hanley, of the Central Vermont railroad, has been appointed general agent of the passenger department of the Central Vermont and Grand Trunk railroads, with offices in the Old South building in Boston. He succeeds E. H. Boynton, New England passenger agent, retired.

Mr. Eastman resigned today as alderman from ward 1 in the city government, but it is not likely that a special election will be called to fill the vacancy because of the expense entailed, but the resignation will not be accepted till just before the usual spring election.

Mr. Eastman went into the employment of the Central Vermont railroad in 1899 following his graduation from Dartmouth college. He was successively ticket agent, traveling passenger agent and chief clerk to the general passenger agent.

EDWARDS—WELLINGTON.

Former Williamstown Man and East Barre Woman Married.

Angier M. J. Edwards and Miss Laura Julia Wellington were united in marriage Thursday evening by Rev. James Ramage at his home on Camp street in the presence of near relatives. They were attended by Mr. and Mrs. Earl H. Dickey of East Barre, the latter being a sister of the bride. The single ring service was used.

The bride is a daughter of Mrs. Josephine Wellington of East Barre, a graduate of Spaulding high school, class of 1913, and one of East Barre's estimable young women. She has been engaged in teaching for the past three years in the public schools of Orange, Northfield and Williamstown. The groom is a well-known Williamstown young man and is engaged as a machinist at Hartford, Conn.

Many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Edwards wish for them a prosperous future. After a wedding trip their home will be in Hartford, Conn.

MANY WORKMEN DISCHARGED.

Because War Munitions Contract Has Been Filled.

Bellows Falls, Dec. 29.—Between 100 and 200 men employed by the Vermont Farm Machine company of this town have received notice that because the firm's contract with the Canadian Car and Foundry company has expired their services will not be needed for a time at least.

The plant has been running day and night for the last 18 months making shrapnel and high explosive shells for the Russian government.

Gen. M. G. Williams, treasurer of the firm, stated that the chances are favorable that his company will get a new contract. He stated that because of recent developments in Europe and because the Russian government does not know what the near future will bring forth it is making no munition contracts at present.

Gen. Williams stated that the men employed at the plant before the concern began to make munitions would undoubtedly be retained even though no new shell contracts are obtained.

Many of the men employed have come to Bellows Falls directly from the farm and have made more in a week than they ever made before in a month doing farm work.

FUNERAL OF MRS. E. J. RULFO

Was Held From Home of Her Brother, John Mackenzie.